(c) whether the Country Director of the World Bank conveyed to the State Government of Gujarat, of any World Bank Mission visiting Gujarat in January, 2005; and

(d) if so, the outcome of Mission's visit to Gujarat and the status of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Gujarat Urban Reform Project is presently being considered for funding by the World Bank.

(b) Department of Economic Affairs has recommended to the Bank to consider funding the project and provide Project Preparation Facility amounting to US $ one Million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A World Bank mission visited the State of Gujarat during February 13-21, 2005. The Bank has informed that the mission was very productive. The Bank is ready to move ahead with preparation of the Gujarat Urban Reform Project and start project preparation activities, including application for a Project Preparation Facility amounting to US$ 1 Million.

Payment to World Bank for remuneration to Secretaries

2257. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has been paid for travel, hospitality and muneration/honorarium to Secretaries to Government of India from cientific departments while above officials visited abroad as a consultant World Bank;

(b) if so, the details of such payments including payment granted towards avel, hospitality, remuneration/honorarium paid to above officials for last ree years, year-wise, category-wise and official-wise; and

(c) the details including country visited, duration of visit and purpose to sit of above official, while working as a consultant to World Bank, for last hree years, year-wise, category-wise and official-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) According to information received from scientific departments, no Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

2258. withdrawn

Circulation of fake currency notes

2259. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons apprehended alongwith fake currency during the last two years and the amount of these notes recovered from them;

(b) whether the notes include the fake currency notes sent from Pakistan;

(c) the concrete steps being taken by Government in this direction after having failed to check the circulation of fake currency notes despite various efforts; and

(d) what punishment is given to the persons involved in printing and circulation of fake currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A total number of 1230 persons were arrested and Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) of the value of about Rs. 2.79 crores were seized during the year 2003. During 2004*, the number of person arrested was 1157 while the value of FICN was of the order of about Rs. 4.06 crores.

(b) Some of the reported seizures indicate that FICN are smuggled into the country from across the border

(c) A number of steps have been taken to curb circulation of FICN in the country which include stepping up of vigilance by BSF/Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes into the country, training and sensitization of law enforcement agencies, dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media for the benefit of general public etc. Further, some additional security features have been approved for incorporation in the Indian bank notes which shall make counter feiting a difficult task. In addition, Government of India has nominated CBI as the nodal agency to monitor investigation of fake currency notes cases and in tackling such crimes.

*Figures are provisional and upto September, 2004